

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 13, 2004. Claims 23 to 33 and 35 are in the application, with Claim 23 being independent. Claim 34 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 23, 26, 27, and 35 have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claim 34 was deemed to contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 23 to 33 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over EP 1 061 566 A2 (Takao) in view of JP 11-317509 (Omi). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The subject matter of Claim 34 (as rewritten to replace the language "from the kerfs" with the language --through the kerfs into the porous semiconductor layer--) has been incorporated into Claim 23. Accordingly, Claim 23 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claim discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants have not yet received an initialed Form PTO-1449 for the September 10, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement. While the document cited in this Information Disclosure Statement is listed on the Form PTO-892 accompanying the Office Action, the Form PTO-892 lists the incorrect publication date. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted herewith, and consideration of the documents cited therein is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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